exchange earned therefrom since 1990-91 are as under :—

Year		Rice	Wheat	Other Cereals
1990-91 . . .	Qty.	505029	139470	7310
	Value	461.57	31.13	2.77
1991-92 . . .	Qty.	678463	586519	14150
	Value	755.58	126.98	7.01
1992-93 . . .	Qty.	606980	37278	17079
	Value	971.93	10.17	10.13
1993-94 . . .	Qty.	468428	35000	44465
	Value	775.62	0.18	12.61

(April—November, 1993) (Source : DGCI & S, calcutta)

(c) Itemwise targets of foodgrains export for the next five years have not been fixed.

(d) It is the policy of Government to allow the export of items of mass consumption in such a manner that it does not compromise our food security.

Patent Right of Medicinal Plants

1876. SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the new GATT treaty, foreigners will henceforth have an unrestricted right to take out medicinal and other plant out of the country.

(b) whether it is also a fact that medicines manufactured overseas with the help of the extracts from such plants will enjoy patent right in our country ; and

(c) whether legal opinion has been sought on the claim of patent rights on medicinal plants subjected to exports ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Medicines manufactured overas with the help of extracts from Indian plants will be eligible for patents in India only in accordance with the provisions of our own national laws on the subject. Under our existing patent laws, product patents are not granted in the area of drugs. pharmaceuticals chemicals and food products. Even in future we do not intend to grant any patents in case of naturally occuring substasces incluling general sequences.

Implications of GATT on India's Environment

1877. SHRI ASHOK MITRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an indepth study has been undertake on the implications of the new GATT treaty on India's environment ;

(b) if so, the principal conclusions reached in the study ; and

(c) whether, before the GATT agreement is finalised at the ministerial meeting scheduled for March, 1994, efforts would be made to introduce suitable changes in the draft in order to care of the concerns aired by environmental experts ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Government have not undertaken such a study.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The proposed Uruguay Round GATT Agreement does not contain any new provisions relating to Environment. However, a Group on Environmental measures and International Trade has been working in

GATT since 1991 to explore the interface between the two areas. This matter is expected to be brought before the Ministerial Conference of the Uruguay Round in April, 1994.

Export and Import of rice

1878. SHRI K.R. MALKANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is exporting quality rice and importing inferior rice ; and

(b) the sale price of superior rice and the import price plus freight (ship, road and rail) insurance and storage cost of inferior rice, per tonne ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The export of basmati rice is allowed freely and export of superfine non-basmati is allowed subject only an M.E.P. (Minimum Export Price) of US $ 200 per MT. During the period from April 1993 to November 1993, 3,20.908 tons of basmati rice valued at Rs. 648.92 crores and 1,47,520 tons of rice (other than basmati rice) valued at Rs. 126.70 crores were exported and 75,524 tons of rice valued at 55.26 crores have been imported.

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta).

Finance to Tobacco Farmers

1879. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to finance tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh to adopt varieties developed by the Central Tobacco Research Institute of Rajahmundry ;

(b) if so. the details of such a scheme ; and

(c) the steps being taken to assist tobacco farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Measures taken by Tobacco Board to assist the farmers include :

(i) Advising farmers through training programmes/meeting/publicity to adopt improved varieties and package of practices recommended by the Central Tobacco Research Institute.

(ii) Distributing quality seeds produced by Central Tobacco Research Institute and the Indian Leaf Tobacco Division (ILTD) of ITC Limited.

(iii) Tying up financial assistance with banks for growing tobacco.

(iv) Supplying coal at the barn-site for curing tobacco.

(v) Implementing developmental schemes for (a) improving yield and quality of FCV tobacco, (b) improving curing facilities, (c) supply of healthy seedlings. (d) training of farmers, (e) on-farm tests and experimental trials, and (f) development of new areas for FCV tobacco.

(vi) Planning crop size and conducting auction sales of FCV tobacco.

Export of Hybrid Jowar

1880. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Maharashtra have approached the Central Government seeking permission to export seven lakh tonnes of hybrid jowar during the current year ; and

(b) if so. what is Government's reaction in respect thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) It has